GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2899
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2001
STORAGE OF FOODGRAINS IN FCI GODOWNS
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

to the answer given to Unstarred Question No.1267 dated 2 March, 2000 regarding `Storage of foodgrainsin FCI godwons` and state:

(a) whether FCI has investigated the causes of shortages in those godowns where shortages werepointed out by C&AG and have investigated the causes of shortages and submitted any report to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) the measures taken to check pilferages and shortages in FCI godowns; and

(d) the action taken against the officials found responsible for the shortages with details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) FCI has disputed the volumetric method adopted by C&AG for measuring physical stocks.According to the Reconciliation Report submitted by FCI, the net shortage comes to 1.57lakh tonnes of foodgrains and not 4.74 lakh tonnes as computed by C&AG.The matter is under examination in the Department of Food and Public Distribution for formulating its opinion/ decision and reporting the position to Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs(CCEA) as perdirections given by Cabinet Committee on Prices(CCP)/Cabinet who are monitoring the case.

(c) Food Corporation of India has taken the following measures to avoid losses of food grains:-

(i) Adoption of 50 kg packing in a phased manner.

(ii) Installation of weighbridges.

(iii) Administrative measures such as tightening of security at depots, intensifying surprise checks at the loading/unloading points, ensuring regular stock verification etc.

(iv) Identification of vulnerable points.

(v) Induction of Central Industrial Security Force at vulnerable depots to curb theft and pilferage.

(vi) Special squad checking at selected railhead transshipment and destination points.

(vii) Speed up of write off cases and fixation of responsibility wherever called for.

(viii) Not to place the godowns under the charge of officials whose antecedents are doubtful.

(ix) Inspection of depots and record by Senior Regional Manager/District Managers.

(x) Inspection of weighbridges by Joint Manager(Mechanical) and District Manager.

(xi) Double line machine stitching of bags.

(xii) Reduction in open wagon movement to the extent possible.

(xiii) Improvement in the size and quality of gunnies .

(xiv) A Project has been prepared by NIC under which it is proposed to upgrade ManagementInformation System (MIS) in FCI.The project involves computerization of the FCI Depots andlinking of the same with District Offices, Regional Offices, Zonal Offices and Headquarters of FCI. A software for use in FCI Depots has been developed by NIC which is being tested in practical conditions at two Depots of FCI at Naraina and Karnal. The Project may take more than one year to complete.

(xv) A Project has been entrusted to Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) to develop a cost effect sampling scheme for physical verification of stocks of wheat and rice in the godowns of FCI. The Project Report submitted by ISI is being examined in consultation with FCI.

(d): FCI has initiated disciplinary action against erring officials for abnormal shortages.